

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

- 2.1.4.13 The Company shall not be liable for the Customer's failure to fulfill its obligations to take all necessary steps including, without limitation, obtaining, installing and maintaining all necessary equipment, materials and supplies, for interconnecting the terminal equipment or communications system of the Customer, or any third party acting as its agent, to the Company's network. The Customer shall secure all licenses, permits, rights-of-way, and other arrangements necessary for such interconnection. In addition, the Customer shall ensure that its equipment and/or system or that of its agent is properly interfaced with the Company's service, that the signals emitted into the Company's network are of the proper mode, bandwidth, power, data speed, and signal level for the intended use of the Customer and in compliance with the criteria set forth in Section 2.1.6 following, and that the signals do not damage Company equipment, injure its personnel or degrade service to other Customers. If the Customer or its agent fails to maintain and operate its equipment and/or system or that of its agent properly, with resulting imminent harm to Company equipment, personnel, or the quality of service to other Customers, the Company may, upon written notice, require the use of protective equipment at the Customer's expense. If this fails to produce satisfactory quality and safety, the company may, upon written notice, terminate the Customer's service without liability.

Issued:

Julie L. Davis  
Tariff Manager

Effective:

780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4.14 With respect to Emergency Number 911 Service:

- (a) This service is offered solely as an aid in handling assistance calls in connection with fire, police and other emergencies. The Company is not responsible for any losses, claims, demands, suits or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the Customer or by any other party or person for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, whether owned by the Customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused by: (1) mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors or other defects in the provision of this service, or (2) installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, location or use of any equipment and facilities furnishing this service.

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Tariff Manager

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2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4.14  
(cont.)

(b) Neither is the Company responsible for any infringement or invasion of the right of privacy of any person or persons, caused or claimed to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of emergency 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, or by any services furnished by the Company including, but not limited to, the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the party or parties accessing emergency 911 service, and which arise out of the negligence or other wrongful act of the Company, the Customer, its Users, agencies or municipalities, or the employees or agents of any one of them.

2.1.4.15

The Company's liability arising from errors or omissions in Directory Listings, other than charged listings, shall be limited to the amount of actual impairment to the Customer's service and in no event shall exceed one-half the amount of the fixed monthly charges applicable to exchange service affected during the period covered by the directory in which the error or omission occurs. In cases of charged Directory Listings, the liability of the Company shall be limited to an amount not exceeding the amount of charges for the charged listings involved during the period covered by the directory in which the error or omission occurs.

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Julie L. Davis Effective:

Tariff Manager

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2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.4 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

- 2.1.4.16 In conjunction with a nonpublished telephone number, as described in Section 3.4.5.3, the Company will not be liable for failure or refusal to complete any call to such telephone when the call is not placed by number. The Company will try to prevent the disclosure of the number of such telephone, but will not be liable should such number be divulged.
- 2.1.4.17 When a Customer with a nonpublished telephone number, as defined herein, places a call to the Emergency 911 Service, the Company will release the name and address of the calling party, where such information can be determined, to the appropriate local governmental authority responsible for the Emergency 911 Service upon request of such governmental authority. By subscribing to service under this tariff, Customer acknowledges and agrees with the release of information as described above.
- 2.1.4.18 In conjunction with the Busy Line Verification and Interrupt Service as described in Section 3.3.2, the Customer shall indemnify and save the Company harmless against all claims that may arise from either party to the interrupted call or any person.
- 2.1.4.19 The Company shall not be liable for any act or omission concerning the implementation of Presubscription, as defined herein.

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Julie L. Davis      Effective:  
Tariff Manager  
780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30342

## LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 2. Regulations (Cont'd)

#### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

##### 2.1.5 Notification of Service-Affecting Activities

The Company will provide the Customer reasonable notification of service-affecting activities that may occur in normal operation of its business. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, equipment or facilities additions, removals or rearrangements and routine preventive maintenance. Generally, such activities are not specific to an individual Customer but affect many Customers' services. No specific advance notification period is applicable to all service activities. The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer to determine the reasonable notifications requirements. With some emergency or unplanned service-affecting conditions, such as outage resulting from cable damage, notification to the Customer may not be possible.

##### 2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

2.1.6.1 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a Customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the Customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any Customer.

2.1.6.2 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain facilities that it furnishes to the Customer. The Customer may not, nor may the Customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities installed by the Company, except upon the written consent of the Company.

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Julie L. Davis Effective:

Tariff Manager

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

2.1.6 Provision of Equipment and Facilities (Cont'd)

2.1.6.3 Equipment installed at the Customer Premises for use in connections with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company has provided it.

2.1.6.4 The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any Customer provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Beyond this responsibility, the Company shall not be responsible for:

- (a) the transmission of signals by Customer provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission; or
- (b) the reception of signals by Customer provided equipment; or
- (c) network control signaling where such signaling is performed by Customer-provided network control signaling equipment.

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Tariff Manager  
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Atlanta, GA 30342

## LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 2. Regulations (Cont'd)

#### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company (Cont'd)

##### 2.1.7 Non-routine Installation

At the Customer's request, installation and/or maintenance may be performed outside the Company's regular business hours or in hazardous locations. In such cases, charges based on cost of the actual labor, material, or other costs incurred by or charged to the Company will apply. If installation is started during regular business hours but, at the Customer's request, extends beyond regular business hours into time periods including, but not limited to, weekends, holidays, and/or night hours, additional charges may apply.

##### 2.1.8 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this tariff remains in the Company, its agents or contractors.

#### 2.2 Prohibited Uses

2.2.1 The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the Customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.

2.2.2 The Company may require a Customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others.

#### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer

##### 2.3.1 General

The Customer shall be responsible for:

- (a) the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;

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Atlanta, GA 30342

## LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 2. Regulations (Cont'd)

#### 2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

##### 2.3.1 General (Cont'd)

- (b) reimbursing the Company for damage to, or loss of, the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the Customer; or the noncompliance by the Customer, with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the Customer's premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company. The Company will, upon reimbursement for damages, cooperate with the Customer in prosecuting a claim against the person causing such damage and the Customer shall be subrogated to the Company's right of recovery of damages to the extent of such payment.
- (c) providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment, space and power to operate Company facilities and equipment installed on the premises of the Customer, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such premises;
- (d) obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduit necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide local exchange service to the Customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described in 2.3.1(c). Any costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the Customer. The Company may require the Customer to demonstrate its compliance with this section prior to accepting an order for service;

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Tariff Manager  
780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30342



LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.1 General (Cont'd)

- (e) providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The Customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company's employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g. friable asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work;
- (f) complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any Customer premises or the rights-of-way for which Customer is responsible under Section 2.3.1(d) above; and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the Customer at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company;
- (g) not creating or allowing to be placed or maintained any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities; and
- (h) making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the Customer. No allowance for interruptions in service will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.3 Obligations of the Customer (Cont'd)

2.3.2 Claims

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, Customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees for:

- (a) any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death of or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invitees of either the Company or the Customer, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the Customer, its employees, agents, representatives or invitees; or
- (b) any claim, loss damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the Customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the Customer and the Company.

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels

2.4.1 General

A Customer may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company.

2.4.2 Station Equipment

2.4.2.1 The Customer is responsible for providing and maintaining any terminal equipment on the Customer premises. The electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by, and maintained at the expense of, the Customer. All such terminal equipment must be registered with the FCC under 47 C.F.R., Part 68 and all wiring must be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations. The Company will, where practicable, notify the Customer that temporary discontinuance of the use of a service may be required; however, where prior notice is not practicable, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to impair the Company's right to discontinue forthwith the use of a service temporarily if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance, the Customer will be promptly notified and afforded the opportunity to correct the condition which gave rise to the temporary discontinuance. During such period of temporary discontinuance, credit allowance for service interruptions as set forth in Section 2.6 following is not applicable.

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780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd)

2.4.2 Station Equipment (Cont'd)

2.4.2.2 The Customer is responsible for ensuring that Customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the Customer's expense.

2.4.3 Interconnection of Facilities

2.4.3.1 Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing local exchange service and the channels, facilities, or equipment of others may be provided at the Customer's expense.

2.4.3.2 Local Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers which are applicable to such connections.

2.4.3.3 Facilities furnished under this tariff may be connected to Customer provided terminal equipment in accordance with the provisions of this tariff.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.4 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd)

2.4.4 Inspections

2.4.4.1 Upon reasonable notification to the Customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the Customer is complying with the requirements set forth in Section 2.4.2.2 for the installation, operation, and maintenance of Customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment. No credit will be allowed for any interruptions occurring during such inspections.

2.4.4.2 If the protective requirements for Customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the Customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice the Customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the Customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel from harm. The Company will, upon request 24 hours in advance, provide the Customer with a statement of technical parameters that the Customer's equipment must meet.

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements

2.5.1 Payment for Service

The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for service and facilities furnished by the Company to the Customer or its Joint or Authorized Users. Objections must be received by the Company within 30 days after statement of account is rendered, or the charges shall be deemed correct and binding upon the Customer. If an entity other than the Company imposes charges on the Company, in addition to its own internal costs, in connection with a service for which a Company Non-Recurring Charge is specified, those charges may be passed on to the Customer.

2.5.1.1 Taxes: The Customer is responsible for the payment of any sales, use, gross receipts, excise, access or other local, state and federal taxes, charges or surcharges (however designated) excluding taxes on the Company's net income imposed on or based upon the provision of Local Exchange Service, all of which shall be separately designated on the Company's invoices. Any taxes imposed by a local jurisdiction (e.g, County and municipal taxes) will only be recovered from those Customers residing in the affected jurisdictions. It shall be the responsibility of the Customer to pay any such taxes that subsequently become applicable retroactively.

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Julie L. Davis      Effective:  
Tariff Manager  
780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.1 Payment for Service (Cont'd)

2.5.1.2 A surcharge is imposed on all charges for service originating at addresses in states which levy, or assert a claim of right to levy, a gross receipts tax on the Company's operations in any such state, or a tax on interstate access charges incurred by the Company for originating access to telephone exchanges in that state.<sup>1</sup> This surcharge is based on the particular state's receipts tax and other state taxes imposed directly or indirectly upon the Company by virtue of, and measured by, the gross receipts or revenues of the Company in that state and/or payment of interstate access charges in that state. The surcharge will be shown as a separate line item on the Customer's monthly invoice.

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<sup>1/</sup> Pending the conclusion of any challenge to a jurisdiction's right to impose a gross receipts tax, the Company may elect to impose and collect a surcharge covering such taxes, unless otherwise constrained by court order or direction, or it may elect not to impose and collect the surcharge. If it has collected a surcharge and the challenged tax is found to have been invalid and unenforceable, the Company will credit or refund such amounts to affected Customers (less its reasonable administrative costs), if the funds collected were retained by the Company or if they were delivered over to the taxing jurisdiction and returned to the Company.

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Tariff Manager

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

Bills will be rendered monthly to Customer.

2.5.2.1 All service, installation, monthly Recurring Charges and Non-Recurring Charges are due and payable upon receipt.

2.5.2.2 The Company shall present bills for Recurring Charges monthly to the Customer, in advance of the month which service is provided.

2.5.2.3 For new customers or existing customers whose service is disconnected, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have 30 days.

2.5.2.4 Amounts not paid within 30 days after the date of invoice are considered past due.

2.5.2.5 A \$15.00 charge will be assessed for checks with insufficient funds or non-existing accounts.

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Atlanta, GA 30342



LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.3 Disputed Bills

The Customer shall notify the Company of any disputed items on a bill within 30 days of receipt of the bill. If the Customer and the Company are unable to resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, the Customer may file a complaint with the South Carolina Public Service Commission in accordance with the Agency's rules of procedure.

2.5.3.1 The date of the dispute shall be the date the Company receives sufficient documentation to enable it to investigate the dispute.

The date of the resolution is the date the Company completes its investigation and notifies the Customer of the disposition of the dispute.

2.5.4 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a Customer to make an Advance Payment before services and facilities are furnished. The Advance Payment will not exceed an amount equal to the Non-Recurring Charge(s) and one month's charges for the service or facility. In addition, where special construction is involved, the Advance Payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated Non-Recurring Charges for the special construction and Recurring Charges (if any) for a period to be set between the Company and the Customer. The Advance Payment will be credited to the Customer's initial bill. An Advance Payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

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Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.5 Deposits

2.5.5.1 Applicants for service or existing Customer's whose financial condition is not acceptable to the Company, or is not a matter of general knowledge, may be required at any time to provide the Company a security deposit. The deposit requested will be in cash or the equivalent of cash, and will be held as a guarantee for the payment of charges. A deposit does not relieve the Customer of the responsibility for the prompt payment of bills on presentation. The deposit will not exceed an amount equal to:

- (a) two month's charges for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of one month; or
- (b) the charges that would apply for the minimum payment period for a service or facility which has a minimum payment period of more than one month; except that the deposit may include an additional amount in event that a termination charge is applicable. In addition, the Company shall be entitled to require such an applicant or Customer to pay all its bills within a specified period of time, and to make such payments in cash or the equivalent of cash. At the Company's option, such deposit may be refunded to the Customer's account at any time. Also, the Company reserves the right to cease accepting and processing Service Orders after it has requested a security deposit and prior to the Customer's compliance with this request.

2.5.5.2 A deposit may be required in addition to an advance payment.

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Julie L. Davis

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Tariff Manager

780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.5 Deposits (Cont'd)

2.5.5.3 When a service or facility is discontinued, the amount of a deposit, if any, will be applied to the Customer's account and any credit balance remaining will be refunded. Before the service or facility is discontinued, the Company may, at its option, return the deposit or credit it to the Customer's account.

2.5.5.4 Deposits held for business customers will accrue interest at a rate equivalent to the rate paid on two-year United States Treasury notes for the preceding 12 months ending December 31 as reported in the most current Federal Reserve Bulletin monthly publication. Interest is credited to the customer annually, or upon termination of the service, or upon return of the deposit by the Company.

2.5.6 Discontinuance of Service

2.5.6.1 Upon nonpayment of any amounts owing to the Company, the Company may, by giving requisite prior written notice to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.

2.5.6.2 Upon violation of any of the other material terms or conditions for furnishing service, the Company may, by giving 30 days' prior notice in writing to the Customer, discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability if such violation continues during that period.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.6 Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

- 2.5.6.3 Upon condemnation of any material portion of the facilities used by the Company to provide service to a Customer or if a casualty renders all or any material portion of such facilities inoperable beyond feasible repair, the Company, by notice to the Customer, may discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.5.6.4 Upon the Customer's insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, filing for bankruptcy or reorganization, failing to discharge an involuntary petition within the time permitted by law, or abandonment of service, the Company may, with prior notice to the customer, immediately discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.5.6.5 Upon any governmental prohibition, or required alteration of the services to be provided or any violation of any applicable law or regulation, the Company may immediately discontinue or suspend service without incurring any liability.
- 2.5.6.6 The Company may discontinue the furnishing of any and/or all service(s) to a Customer, without incurring any liability:
- 2.5.6.6.1 Immediately and without notice if the Company deems that such action is necessary to prevent or to protect against fraud or to otherwise protect its personnel, agents, facilities or services. The Company may discontinue service pursuant to this sub-section 2.5.6.6.1 (a-f) if:

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Julie L. Davis      Effective:  
Tariff Manager  
780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30342

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.6 Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

2.5.6.6.1 (Cont'd)

- (a) The Customer refuses to furnish information to the Company regarding the Customer's credit-worthiness, its past or current use of common carrier communications services or its planned use of service(s); or
- (b) The Customer provides false information to the Company regarding the Customer's identity, address, credit-worthiness, past or current use of common carrier communications services, or its planned use of the Company's service(s); or
- (c) The Customer has been given ten (10) day written notice by the Company of any past due amount (which remains unpaid in whole or in part) for any of the Company's other common carrier communications services to which the Customer either subscribes or had subscribed or used; or
- (d) The Customer uses, or attempts to use, service with the intent to avoid the payment, either in whole or in part, of the tarified charges for the service by:
  - (d.1) Using or attempting to use service by rearranging, tampering with, or making connections to the Company's service not authorized by this tariff; or
  - (d.2) Using tricks, schemes, false or invalid numbers, false credit devices, electronic devices; or
  - (d.3) Any other fraudulent means or devices; or

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd)

2.5.6 Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)

(e) Use of service in such a manner as to interfere with the service of other users; or

(f) Use of service for unlawful purposes.

2.5.6.6.2 Immediately, upon written notice to a Customer who has failed to pay any sum within 30 days of the date when payment was due;

2.5.6.6.3 Upon ten (10) days written notice to the Customer, after failure of the Customer to comply with a request made by the Company for security for the payment of service in accordance with Section 2.5.5; or

2.5.6.6.4 Ten (10) days after sending the Customer written notice of noncompliance with any provision of this tariff if the noncompliance is not corrected within that ten (10) day period; or

2.5.6.7 The suspension or discontinuance of service(s) by the Company pursuant to this Section does not relieve the Customer of any obligation to pay the Company for charges due and owing for service(s) furnished during the time of or up to suspension or discontinuance.

2.5.6.8 Upon the Company's discontinuance of service to the Customer under Section 2.5.6.1 or 2.5.6.2, all applicable charges, including termination charges, shall become due. This is in addition to all other remedies that may be available to the Company at law or in equity or under any other provision of this tariff.

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Tariff Manager

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions of Service

- 2.6.1 Credit for Interruptions: When the use of service or facilities furnished by the Company is interrupted due to any cause other than the negligence or willful act of the Customer, or the operation or failure of the facilities or equipment provided by the Customer, a pro rata adjustment of the monthly Recurring Charges subject to interruption will be allowed for the service and facilities rendered useless and inoperative by reason of the interruption whenever said interruption continues for a period of 24 hours or more from the time the interruption is reported to or known to exist by the Company, except as otherwise specified in the Company's tariffs. If the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative but declines to release it for testing and repair, it is considered to be impaired, but not interrupted.

For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have 30 days. A credit allowance is applied on a pro rata basis against the monthly Recurring Charges specified hereunder for Local Line or Local Trunk Service and is dependent upon the length of the interruption. Only those facilities on the interrupted portion of the circuit will receive a credit. Credit allowances for service outages that exceed 24 hours in duration will be rounded up to the next whole 24 hours.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions of Service (Cont'd)

2.6.2 Limitations on Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for:

- (a) interruptions due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the Customer, Authorized User, Joint-User, or other common carrier providing service connected to the service of Company;
- (b) interruptions due to the negligence of any person other than the Company including but not limited to the Customer or other common carriers connected to the Company's facilities;
- (c) interruptions due to the failure or malfunction of non-Company equipment;
- (d) interruptions of service during any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purpose of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- (e) interruptions of service during a period in which the Customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis;

Issued:

Julie L. Davis

Effective:

Tariff Manager

780 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30342



LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

2. Regulations (Cont'd)

2.6 Allowances for Interruptions of Service (Cont'd)

2.6.2 Limitations on Allowances (Cont'd)

- (f) interruptions of service during any period when the Customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a Customer order for a change in service arrangements;
- (g) interruption of service due to circumstances or causes beyond the control of the Company.

2.6.3 Use of Alternative Service Provided by the Company: Should the Customer elect to use an alternative service provided by the Company during the period that a service is interrupted, the Customer must pay the tariffed rates and charges for the alternative service used.

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